

Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a communication procedure between instances, ~~with one instance being a protocol tester~~, comprising the steps of:

selecting the instances that take part in the communication procedure, one instance being a protocol tester and another instance being an item under test;

selecting a protocol layer to be emulated by the protocol tester for testing a specified protocol layer of the item under test on the basis of the communication procedure;

selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure;

selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and

automatically setting up through the protocol tester the communication procedure on the basis of the selections made in the above selecting steps, with parameters for the abstract communication interfaces and the communication data selecting steps being made graphically.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instances selecting step comprises the step of selecting the instances graphically, and/or the emulated protocol layer selecting step comprises the step of selecting the emulated protocol layer graphically, and the parameters selectable in these steps being assigned description files that are used in the setting up step.

Claim 3. (Original) The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

Claim 4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 5. (Original) The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the communication data selecting step comprises the steps of:

- graphically selecting a data format; and
- graphically setting up a communication sequence between the selected instances.

Claim 7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the graphically setting up step comprises the step of entering source code.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A protocol tester comprising:

- means for selecting instances taking part in a communication procedure, one of the instances being the protocol tester and another instance being an item under test;

- means for selecting a protocol layer to be emulated by the protocol tester for testing a specified protocol layer of the item under test on the basis of the communication procedure;

- means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure;

- means for selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and

- means for automatically setting up the communication procedure through the protocol tester on the basis of the selections of the various selecting means, with parameters for the abstract communication interfaces and the communication data selecting means being made graphically.

Claim 9. (Previously Amended) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein the instances selecting means and/or the emulated protocol layer selecting means comprise graphical selecting means and the parameters selected by these selecting

means are assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means.

Claim 10. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claims 8 or 9 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

Claim 11. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 10 wherein the communication data comprises one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 12. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 11 further comprising means for entering source codes.

Claim 13. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein all parameters selected by all the selecting means are assigned description files that are used by the setting up means.